



“Global Food Security Challenges: Monitoring Earth Resources” Summit

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

SESSION II: Government Collaboration:

Keys to Overcoming Global Food Security

10:45AM-12:15AM PANEL – Questions and Answers

1. Monitoring Production and the Need for Government Integration:

- a) IFPRI: Do you use Crop Explorer or FEWS NET? *Yes we use Crop Explorer.*
- b) IFPRI: Why is the Gates Foundation trying to create a different geospatial dataset if the USDA and USAID have that information? *The Gates Foundation is working with USDA and USAID and I am not aware of any similar datasets they are using.*
- c) IFPRI: What support does IFPRI receive from the Federal Government? *A great deal of support we are government funded to a great extent.*
- d) USAID: Can you discuss the USAID reliance on public-private partnerships in the context of food security and your use in the future? *The USAID group I represent is FEWSNET and our partnerships are outlined in my presentation. USAID has many, many public-private partnerships and I am just not the right person in that area to discuss this. I will get you that information if you see me after the session and I will get your name.*
- e) USAID: How good is the quality of FAO data on the Global hungry population (current FAO estimate is 1 billion people undernourished) and what can be done to improve global food security information? *The data on the hungry needs to be improved and this summit shows some ways in which the information can be improved by collecting more data from an even greater variety of sources.*
- f) IFPRI and USAID: How long will it take for developed and underdeveloped nations to overcome global food issues: How long will this take? *That is the big question and work is*

underway and has been to support global food security but we have no way of answering a question with specificity.

- g) USAID: What is the current situation for unimpeded internet access as part of the solution for developing countries? That is an area which is addressed and in many cases developing countries are skipping several internet phases and going right to satellite access as opposed to land lines. It is improving and there are many agencies working this area in developing countries.*

2. Information needs - Monitoring and Collaboration:

- a) USDA FAS OGA: Where are the actual food production databases in our government for global food supply housed and how do varying agencies share these databases? The USDA has the largest database available PS & D which is the Production and Supply and Distribution database which is publicly available and the products we develop at FAS OGA IPAD are available on Crop Explorer.*
- b) USDA FAS OGA: When will Crop Explorer provide data downloads and can users from developing countries access it? Crop Explorer does provide direct data downloads from MODIS NDVI data as well as several other projects and will continue to do so. Users from around the globe can access this data.*
- c) USDA FAS OGA: How are biotech methods being promoted to small/medium farmers? Internationally as was mentioned by one of the previous speakers each country where the USDA field offices are located a biotech group assists local small farmers in this topic area.*
- d) How is actual food demand determined and then how are those locations analyzed/addressed?*

3. National Security and Global Food Security:

- a) NGA: What is NGA's continuing role in the global food security process? NGA will continue to focus on joint projects like the one discussed here today with the USDA FAS OGA as well as initiate other collaborative projects.*
- b) NGA: How does NGA prioritize the areas of the world they study? When priorities of a (new) government administration change how does that impact your organization? We provide data and information to our clients and as priorities move*

and shift we respond to that with the appropriate type of product solutions.

- c) *NGA: How is your organization sharing data? Data is shared with the appropriate parties. Outside of the organization data is shared when working collaboratively with organizations such as the USDA and others in venues such as this.*
- d) *NGA: How is data shared such as the USDA/NGA products and analysis shared to eGEOINT? These products are shared in the eGEOINT community through GEOINT on-line.*